

New Books

Pharmacology of Itch

Editors: Cowan, Alan, Yosipovitch, Gil (Eds.)
Series: Handbook of Experimental Pharmacology, Vol. 226.
2015, VIII, 382 p. 42 illus., 34 illus. in color. SPRINGER.
ISBN 978-3-662-44605-8

Basic research on the pharmacology of itch has exploded in the wake of two very influential papers that were published in *Nature* (2007) and *Science* (2009). Long overlooked as a milder form of pain, itching has rapidly gained a new appreciation in both research and clinical communities because of its complexity and its negative effects on the quality of life of the distressed patients. Like pain, not all itches are the same. Unlike pain, there are no standard drugs equivalent to aspirin and morphine. Epidemiological studies emphasize the high incidence and economic costs of itch (pruritus). It is the most prevalent symptom of a wide variety of allergic and inflammatory skin conditions (e.g., psoriasis, atopic dermatitis), is associated with several systemic diseases (e.g., chronic kidney and liver disease), and occurs in patients undergoing hemodialysis, spinal administration of opioids, and in those suffering from AIDS. The reader will learn about the multiple pathways for itch and their interactions with pain. The relationship between these closely related, yet distinct sensory phenomena, will be emphasized. Both itch and pain use several common molecules to send signals to the brain. Thus, drugs that have been, and are being, developed as analgesics may also attenuate intractable itch. This has been an exciting and very necessary turn of events since traditional H-1 receptor antagonists are ineffective in blocking the pruritus associated with kidney failure and cholestasis. The clinical chapters will provide insights into contemporary treatment regimens for pruritus in different human scenarios.

Statistical Literacy for Clinical Practitioners

Holmes, William H, Rinaman, William C.
2014, XI, 485 p. 340 illus. SPRINGER. ISBN 978-3-319-12549-7

This textbook on statistics is written for students in medicine, epidemiology, and public health. It builds on the important role evidence-based medicine now plays in the clinical practice of physicians, physician assistants and allied health practitioners. By bringing research design and

statistics to the fore, this book can integrate these skills into the curricula of professional programs. Students, particularly practitioners-in-training, will learn statistical skills that are required of today's clinicians. Practice problems at the end of each chapter and downloadable data sets provided by the authors ensure readers get practical experience that they can then apply to their own work.

Vasculitis in Clinical Practice

Watts, Richard, Scott, David G. I., Mukhtyar, Chetan
2nd ed. 2015, XX, 220 p. 45 illus., 34 illus. in color.
SPRINGER.

This book focuses on clinical presentation, diagnostic processes and current management of systematic vasculitis, and for this second edition the Editors have updated the treatment approach and nomenclature in line with current practice. Systemic vasculitides are a group of disorders which are of increasing importance. Many of these conditions are only rarely encountered by general physicians and often present significant diagnostic challenges. The Editors aim to provide easily accessible information in a pocket sized format. In doing so they hope to help both the generalist but also rheumatologists who only encounter these problems occasionally.

Diagnosis and Treatment of Fungal Infections

Editors: Hospenthal, Duane R., Rinaldi, Michael G. (Eds.)
2nd ed. 2015, XI, 299 p. 259 illus., 199 illus. in color.
SPRINGER.

Diagnosis and Treatment of Fungal Infections, 2nd Edition is a thorough update to *Diagnosis and Treatment of Human Mycoses*. Globally recognized experts are brought together again to provide the latest research and clinical evidence on fungal infections and basic mycology. This concise text is divided into sections dedicated to the patient approach, laboratory and radiological diagnosis, antifungal agents, mycoses and instructive cases. Ideal for patient care or as a teaching guide, the busy infectious disease, hematology, oncology, pulmonology, or critical care specialist will find this resource to be a practical tool for diagnosing, treating, and managing patients with fungal infections.